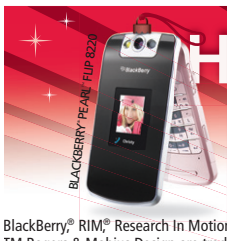

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Celebrity Buzz

Angie not ready to retire just yet

pg 22

Cut dependence on non-renewables, city group urges

SUSTAINABILITY The Calgary Chamber of Commerce released their Vision 2050 strategy to gradually reduce dependence on non-renewable resources as a source for revenue.

"With so many risks right now — the volatility of commodity prices, challenging global equity markets and emerging carbon management demands — what has been viewed as a reliable revenue stream needs to be reviewed," says Geoff Pradella, Vice-President of Public & Government Affairs with the Calgary Chamber of Commerce.

The plan suggests reducing resource revenue for budgetary purpose over the next three years, and putting the savings into the Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

METRO CALGARY

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Hockey **Losing streak over**

The Flames Eric Nystrom and Colorado defenceman Ruslan Salei get tangled up with a ref in the second period of last night's NHL game at the Pengrowth Saddledome. The Flames went on to win it 4-1. FOR MORE COVERAGE SEE PG. 16

Surplus shrinks to $2B

JEFF CUMMINGS
jeff.cummings@metronews.ca

The world financial meltdown and falling oil prices have eaten away billions of dollars from Alberta's budget surplus.

The government is now expecting a $2 billion surplus at the end of the year, with revenues to total $39.9 billion coupled with $37.7 billion in expenditures Finance Minister Iris Evans announced in a second quarter report yesterday.

That's far short of an $8.5 billion surplus predicted in the first quarter when a barrel of oil was hovering around $147.

"We're in a province with a debt that's paid down ... that will have a surplus and a province that will have a budget that will meet targets."
Iris Evans, finance minister

Despite the hit to its budget, the government will still invest $2 billion in carbon and capture storing technologies, but will no longer put $3 billion into savings, including its Heritage Savings Trust Fund, which has dropped $1.2 billion in value in the last six months.

The economic crunch is also forcing the government to hold close to $225 million of its $2 billion fund for public transit, said the province.

Evans said Alberta is not immune to crumbling markets, but the province is still in good shape.

"We're in a province with a debt that's paid down, the lowest income taxes, no provincial sales tax, lowest corporate taxes in a province that will have a surplus and a province that will have a budget that will meet targets," she said.

Critics say the Tory government's poor planning around its savings in the last few years could run the province into a deficit and NDP Leader Brian Mason suggested the province should back off carbon capture, because it's "unproven."

Watch opposition reaction to the budget update at metronews.ca/local

Day 2: Council pares back two per cent

NEIL MACKINNON
neil.mackinnon@metronews.ca

BUDGET Calgary's property tax woes lessened by about two per cent yesterday as city council carved out EMS funding and nearly $2 million in other expenses, while deliberating protective service budgets.

Aldermen carved five jobs and $700,000 in consulting expenses out of their community and protective services proposals and made good on a joint motion by Ald. Gord Lowe and mayor Dave Bronconnier to remove $15 million of EMS funding as the province is slated to take the service over in April.

"There hasn't been nearly enough cut."
Ald. Ric McIver

"There hasn't been nearly enough cut," said Ald. Ric McIver, who wants to find nearly five per cent in cuts for 2009 alone.

Calgary police chief Rick Hanson was concerned a promised $25 million for 200 new police officers may fall victim, all police budgets and business proposals were approved unanimously.

"I am a worrier, so it's quite a relief it's all over with and I plan on sleeping like a little baby tonight," said Hanson, who spent the morning justifying his department's needs and explaining growing overtime patterns.

Automotive pg 18

VW Tiguan a too-cute-ute

Travel pg 17

Touring relics in Harran

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Wheel-less car competition at TELUS World of Science
The 22nd annual Chevron Senior High Olympics will take place at the TELUS World of Science — Calgary, this Saturday from 8:15 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Teams will be designing wheel-less cars to navigate around an obstacle course. METRO CALGARY

Local

Suspect sought on 12 warrants

The Calgary Police Service is seeking public assistance in locating Milo Sebastian Archer, 24, left, wanted for allegedly harassing and stalking a Calgary woman. Archer is known to use the aliases: Milo Charles Archer, Myles Charles Archer and Milo Sebastian Martorana. Archer has 12 outstanding warrants, including eight for breach of conditions. Call 266-1234 with any information. METRO CALGARY

Teddy rescued from C-train

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

It was an almost "unbearable" hour for two-year-old Sam Durocher when he left his favourite teddy bear on the C-train.

With quick thinking by Calgary Transit call centre representative Sue Wipf and driver Ricardo Alvarez, Durocher and his aptly named Brown Bear were swiftly reunited.

Mother Anne Sherman said she and her son exited the southbound train at Anderson on Nov. 11 when her son began crying.

"We realized he lost his teddy bear on the train. He brings it everywhere — to the park, to daycare — everywhere," she said. "I knew I had to do something to find it."

Representative Wipf took the frantic call and knew how important it was to find the teddy bear so she put out an ABP to the transit drivers.

Lucky for everyone, driver Alvarez started the search immediately, and found Brown Bear in the middle car before returning it to mom and son in style — a front window seat, where Sam could see the arrival of his fuzzy friend.

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Two-year-old Sam Durocher is happy to have Brown Bear back in his arms, thanks to Calgary Transit driver Ricardo Alvarez, after the stuffed friend was left behind on the train on Nov. 11

Court hears of alleged confession

STEINKE A court heard testimony yesterday detailing an alleged confession to another inmate that accused killer Jeremy Steinke, 25, killed his girlfriend's parents.

The jury heard testimony from a Medicine Hat sheriff that Steinke was overheard telling an inmate "she did the brother, and I did the mom and dad."

Sean McGuigan testified the alleged conversation took place in May, 2006 when Steinke was being transferred from the courthouse to the Remand Centre in Medicine Hat.

Steinke is facing three first-degree charges in the 2006 killings of his ex-girlfriend's family in Medicine Hat. KRISTA SYLVESTER /METRO CALGARY

Some aldermen seek rolling tally to help rein in spending

Calgary's possible 25 per cent tax hike was born one approved report at a time and some city aldermen are planning to push for a rolling tally to keep track of it all the next time around.

Such a move could avert such punitive jumps in the future, said Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart, as hundreds of reports, most with vague budgetary implications included, slide across aldermanic desks in a year and are approved without an eye on exactly how much of the budget has already been allocated.

Ald. Andre Chabot

"It's impossible to keep track without a running total," said Ald. Andre Chabot, who would support a notice of motion on the matter if it came forward. "I think it would influence a lot of the decisions that are made down here and it would probably move to reconsidering some previously made decisions over the course of the year."

It might make council's life easier and city administration could implement such a system, said Mount Royal College Bissett School of Business chair David Allwright, but it could cost millions to implement.

"The problem is you'd have a hard time justifying that kind of expenditure when taxpayers won't see any savings from it," he said.

Finance committee chair Gord Lowe said the idea might be intriguing, but it's each member of council's personal responsibility to keep an eye on the bigger picture and do that work themselves.

NEIL MACKINNON/METRO CALGARY

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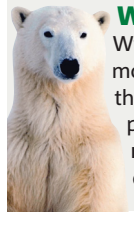

Watch as Winnipeg's zoo mourns the loss of the world's oldest polar bear at **metronews.ca/canada**

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Girl missing from arena arrives home

Fifteen-year-old Rebecca Van Geffen, reported missing from the Claresholm Arena Saturday, was reported to have returned home at 8:30 a.m. yesterday, according to Claresholm RCMP. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Teach kids early about bullying, police say

Bullying happens every 25 minutes in every classroom.

But coinciding with the sixth annual National Bullying Awareness Week, the Calgary police service has launched a new anti-bullying campaign to reduce that number.

"What we're trying to do is get into classrooms at younger ages, because studies have shown that early intervention is key in preventing bullying," Sgt. Brian Rayner of the youth section said.

The police service has chosen three officers to provide elementary and high schools the education to prevent bullying.

Linda White from the Alliance to End Violence said the best thing youth can do to prevent bullying is to stand up to it. "We need the bystanders to step up and say something or they are just as much of the problem," she said.

Grade 10 student Michelle Hall says when her friends make fun of someone she tries to stop them. "They seem to listen when everyone is not cool with it."

KRISTA SYLVESTER / METRO CALGARY

One-third

- An estimated 34 per cent of students in Grades 7 to 11 are bullied over the school year, Calgary Police say.

Canada Post **Posties picketing**

ROBIN KUNISKI / METRO CALGARY

Postal workers at the Calgary processing office continued on the picket lines today, on strike for improved sick leave benefits.

News in brief

BANK THEFT Police are looking for a 50 to 56-year-old Caucasian male, 5-foot-10, 180 pounds with grey facial stubble wearing a baseball cap. The suspect is wanted in relation to a robbeyr at the CIBC branch at 5224 Falsbridge Gate NE yesterday around 2 p.m.

PURSE-SNATCHING Calgary Crime Stoppers, the CPS and Shaw TV conducted a reenactment of a Sept. 24 purse-snatching in the parking lot of Brentwood Village Mall that seriously injured an elderly woman.
Police are still looking for the suspect, a Caucasian male in his mid-30s, with a medium build, brown eyes, a shaved head and a goatee.

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So You Think You Can Dance Canada tour tickets on sale Saturday

Tickets for the Calgary stop of the So You Think You Can Dance Canada Tour 2009 go on sale this Saturday, for the Feb. 5 show at the Stampede Corral. Phone Ticketmaster at 403-777-0000 or go to www.ticketmaster.ca. **METRO CALGARY**

LINDSEY WALLIS/FOR METRO CALGARY

Instructor Malcolm Bale demonstrates an elbow strike. "It's just like scratching your back," he said.

Defending peace of mind

LINDSEY WALLIS
for Metro Calgary

Joanna Anderson slams her elbow into the attacker's arm, then rolls onto him, jabbing her elbow into a sensitive spot just above his knee before she claws at his eyes and jumps to her feet.

"It's just like a table," says instructor Malcolm Bale. "If he is missing a leg, which in this case is an arm, he's unbalanced and you can use that."

He is speaking to a class of about 20 women at the Jiu-Jitsu Calgary studio in Queensland, who are learning how to escape an attacker. Many are here because they don't feel safe in Calgary.

Bale has been offering free self defence classes for over two years because, "I don't want to put a hurdle up for people with a cost. I think it is an important thing for people to learn."

Over 95 per cent of his students are women. Men who come are usually there to support their wives or are boys having problems with bullies.

Bale said companies, especially those downtown, are increasingly sponsoring classes for their employees, who are concerned about the safety of public transit.

Janneta Zelezkina, who is taking the class with her daughter said, "I feel much more confident after I took this course, it's amazing. It's just peace of mind. You feel different because you know something."

Based in jiu-jitsu, Bale teaches self-defence strategies that virtually anyone can master.

"I want people to realize that they don't have to be technically brilliant to be effective," he said.

For more information visit www.fightwize.com.

$500 The amount Albertans can claim in fitness expense on their provincial tax return, after the tax credit passed third reading in legislature yesterday. **METRO CALGARY**

Travel Alberta courts Australians

WEB Travel Alberta wants Australians to travel up over — to Alberta that is.

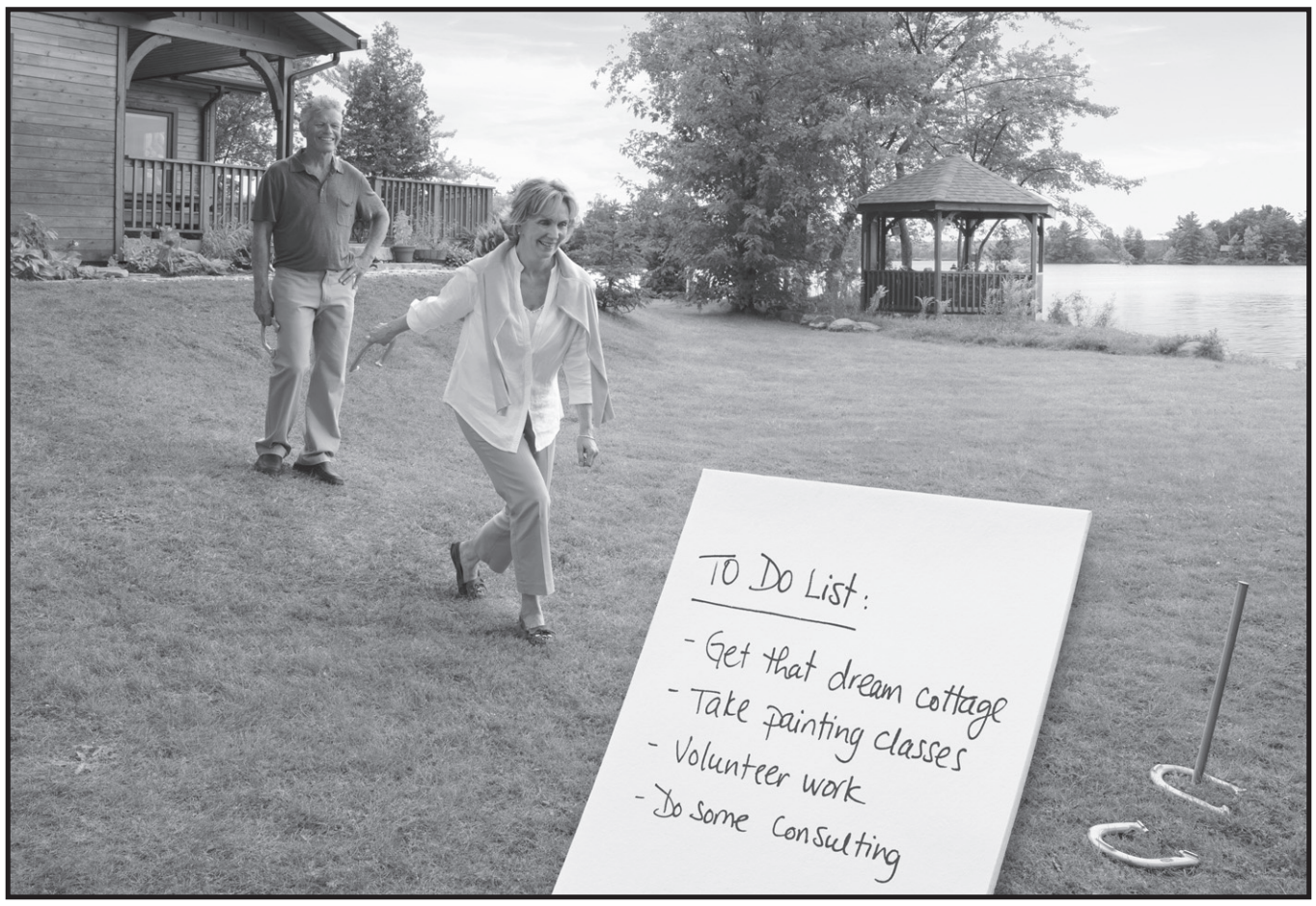
Travel Alberta launched a website called www.friendsbeyondborders.com to lure Australians to the province and on Nov. 20 tourism volunteers will be in Australia promoting the website.

Albertans can share their experiences on the site with interested Australians. An estimated 46,000 travellers from down under choose Alberta as their tourism destination annually. **METRO CALGARY**

News in brief

CHIEFS The Grand Chief of Treaty 7 is announcing today that Calgary will host the 30th Annual General Assembly in 2009 — the first time it's been selected for the event. More than 3,000 delegates are expected to attend, including 633 chiefs. The economic impact is estimated at $2 million.

DONATION The newly formed Canadian Progress Club (CPC) and Elevate are presenting a $40,000 cheque to Aspen's "Empowering Families Program" today. The funds come on the heels of the Annual Worldwide WOW Photo Exhibition and Gala from last month. **METRO CALGARY**



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Trial for murdered B.C. girl begins in China
A trial began Monday in China for the 18-year-old Chinese man accused of murdering B.C. model Diana O'Brien in Shanghai in July. China's official Xinhua news agency reported that the hearing for the accused, Chen Jun, lasted about two hours. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada

Men plead guilty in horse deaths

Two men who faced charges after the carcasses of nearly 30 horses were discovered at a farm near Andrew, Alta., each pleaded guilty yesterday to one count of allowing animals to be in distress. Axel Hinz-Schleuter and Dale Huber were originally charged with 12 of the distress counts under the Animal Protection Act, but the Crown withdrew the remaining 11 charges after guilty pleas were entered on the one count. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Crash survivor amazes doctors

MARIA COOTAUCO
for Metro Canada

The lone survivor of a plane that went down on an island near Sechelt, B.C., on Sunday killing seven passengers is expected to make a full recovery within two to three weeks, his doctors said yesterday.

"The long-term prognosis is very good," said Dr. Anthony Papp, director of the burn unit at Vancouver General Hospital. "Most likely, he's not going to need any surgery."

Thirty-six-year-old Tom Wilson of Fort Saskatchewan, Alta. was on his way to Powell River, B.C., to train Peter Kiewit Sons employees when the Pacific Coastal Air Grumman Goose plane he was riding crashed into a mountain on South Thormanby Island.

After the plane crashed, Wilson hiked for more than two hours to a beach, where he was rescued by Canadian Coast Guard volunteers — a feat that astounded his doctors.

"It's remarkable he hasn't suffered any serious internal injuries," said Dr. John Reid, Wilson's attending physician.

hospital

- Tom Wilson's doctors say he is expected to remain in hospital for a few more days.

Women **Ski jump in 2010?**

ANDY CLARK/REUTERS

Canadian ski jumper Zoya Lynch talks to reporters during a news conference in Vancouver yesterday. There is still enough time for women's ski jumping to make it into the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver even though a court has delayed hearing the challenge until April.

House back to work

POLITICS They called for change, but in the end they stuck with experience and a side of optimism.

Peter Milliken, the Liberal MP from Kingston and the Islands who has been Speaker of the House of Commons since 2001, was re-elected by fellow MPs to the prestigious and demanding post yesterday.

It took five ballots for Milliken, challenged by seven other MPs, to win back his job. Many of the challengers campaigned on promises of restoring order and civility to the Commons, the scene of rancorous, partisan exchanges in recent years.

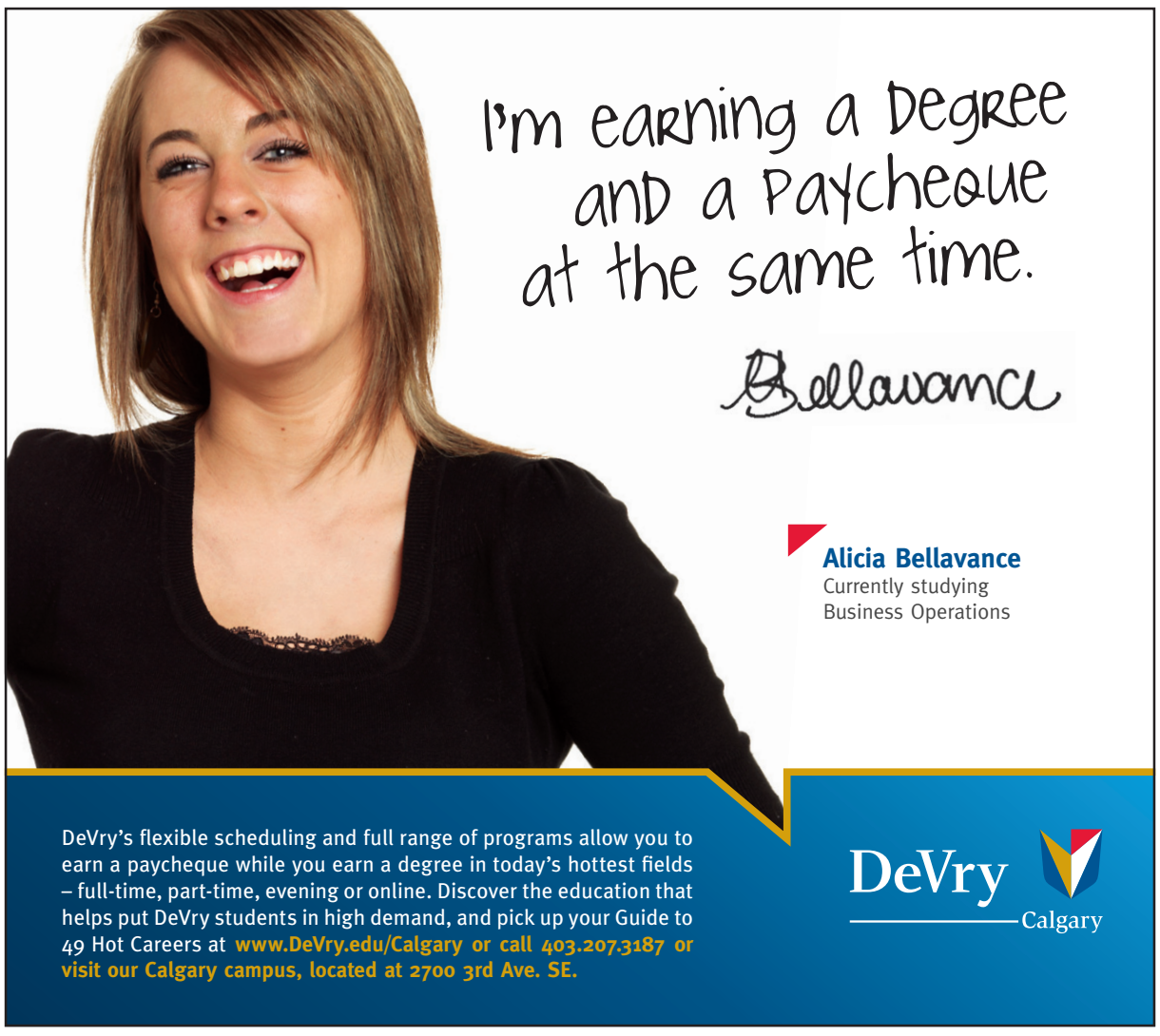
The Commons convened yesterday for the first time since the Oct. 14 election. The government's throne speech will be read today.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

QUEBEC Premier Jean Charest, whose criticism of federal arts cuts hampered the federal Conservatives' bid for election gains in Quebec, is trying to secure support within the cultural community. Yesterday, Charest promised that a re-elected Liberal government would eliminate the 7.5 per cent provincial sales tax on Quebec cultural products, including CDs and videos, and movie, museum and cultural events. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Watch Winnipeg's zoo mourn the loss of the world's oldest polar bear at metronews.ca/canada



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8 canada

Couple fights for twin parental leaves
An Ottawa couple expecting two babies at the same time is fighting for the right to take one paid parental leave for each child. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Syncrude agrees to oil royalties

Syncrude Canada Ltd has signed on to Alberta's new royalty terms after holding out for nearly a year, but the world's largest oil sands producer will get a six-year transition, it said yesterday.

Meantime, Syncrude will pay an additional $975 million to the province between 2010 and 2015.

The deal, which follows a similar one with Suncor Energy Inc in January, caps Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach's quest to move his province's main industry to a royalty system aimed at capturing $1.4 billion a year more for Albertans.

Energy companies start paying higher economic rent for oil and gas production under a generic system at the start of 2009, but Syncrude and Suncor had contracts guaranteeing terms through 2015, requiring the negotiations.

"We said right from the beginning that we would not rip up contracts — instead we would work together to renegotiate some of the terms as we have done in the past," Stelmach told reporters in the provincial capital of Edmonton.

"We said right from the beginning that we would not rip up contracts ... for this important industry."
Ed Stelmach

"The goal was to make sure Albertans continue to receive value for the oil sands development while providing certainty for this important industry. I'm happy that we've been able to achieve both."

The oil sector has been highly critical of the royalty changes since they were announced in Oct. 2007, and companies have said the recent downturn that has pulled oil to just above $50 a barrel from highs of $147 in July means a double whammy. **REUTERS**

UPS to build facility north of Calgary

JOBS International delivery company UPS announced the construction of a $26 million facility in northeast Calgary yesterday.

The new 150,000 sq. feet distribution centre will eventually double the company's processing capability in the city, cited by the company as the primary international gateway for cargo coming into the country, in a province with growing and stable economy. The facility, which is expected to employ over 400 people, will open October 2009.

METRO CALGARY

News in brief

OLD BEAR Winnipeg zoo officials yesterday were mourning the death of what is believed to be the world's oldest polar bear. The 42-year-old bear named Debby died on Monday at a Winnipeg zoo where she had lived since 1967 after being captured as a orphaned cub in the Russian Arctic in 1966. **REUTERS**

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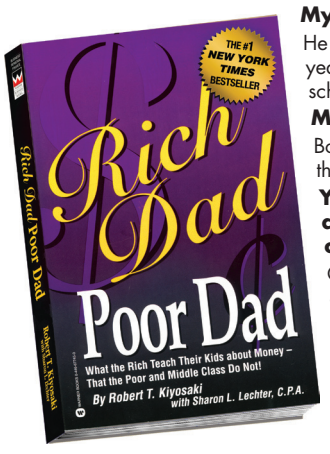

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Obama names his attorney general
President-elect Barack Obama has decided on Eric Holder, a former senior official in the Clinton administration, to be attorney general, Newsweek has reported. REUTERS

World

Hillary's job may depend on Bill

If Sen. Hillary Clinton is to be picked by U.S. president-elect Barack Obama as his secretary of state, it may well depend on a review of the business activities of her husband, former president Bill Clinton. Obama's transition team is believed to be looking at Bill Clinton's post-White House work to review whether his international philanthropic and business dealings would pose a conflict of interest if his wife were secretary of state. REUTERS

Spy's arrest sparks Cold War fears

A spy dragged in from the cold. NATO secrets pipelined to Moscow. Warnings of "catastrophic damage" to Western security.

News of the arrest of a senior Estonian defence ministry official on treason charges has set old alarm bells ringing, and revived Cold War fears of Russian penetration of the West's closely held secrets.

The accused official, Herman Simm, 61, has been under investigation for months, and was seized in September, after questions were raised about several lavish properties Simm had bought while on a modest government salary. But word of the charges has only just surfaced.

In a setup worthy of a 1960s spy novel, Simm is accused of using a radio transmitter to send classified information to Russia, including NATO plans for Kosovo's independence, U.S. missile defence and last summer's war between Russia and Georgia.

His wife, Heete, was also arrested.

Officials in Germany and Estonia have described the potential damage of his actions as "catastrophic" and "historic."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Control of state secrets

- Simm had years of control over Estonia's computerized state secrets — including NATO, United Nations and European Union documents — as former chief of the defence ministry's security department.

Tibetans seek path toward independence from China

TALKS Tibetans could push for independence from China if exile groups meeting this week in India decide that is their only option, the prime minister of the Tibetan government-in-exile said yesterday.

Frustrated at the lack of progress in talks with Beijing, hundreds of Tibetans are meeting in the Indian town of Dharamsala, the exiled Tibetans' headquarters, searching for a way forward.

Some want the Dalai Lama's long-standing "Middle Way," which advocates greater autonomy within China, replaced by demands for outright independence.

"If the majority of the people offer some different way than the present (Middle Way), then of course we would gladly follow that," Samdhong Rinpoche, the Tibetan in-exile prime minister, told reporters. REUTERS

Russia **Dangerous world of Russian journalism**

SERGEI KARPUKHIN/REUTERS

Svetlana Kuryshkina, common-law wife of Mikhail Beketov, stands in front of his house in Khimki outside Moscow yesterday. Beketov lies in a coma after a savage beating a week ago. He is close to becoming the latest reporter killed after daring to challenge the dangerous world where Russian politics and business overlap, supporters and family members said yesterday.

Bank battle ahead for Obama

ECONOMY President-elect Barack Obama and congressional Democrats face a tough test proving that they want to fix the U.S. financial system after taking millions of dollars in campaign donations from banks and Wall Street.

Decisions loom on reining in the securities markets, shoddy lending practices and regulatory failures behind the worst U.S. economic crisis in decades.

The fight raises questions about whether Washington is capable of overhauling an industry more deeply insinuated into the halls of political power than possibly any other.

Politics in the U.S. capital is heavily influenced by money donated by business interests that often play both sides of the partisan fence to win access and influence.

If large donations buy the same clout today, average citizens should be worried about the scope and shape of next year's reform agenda, experts say. REUTERS

News in brief

DISEASE A tick-borne infectious disease spreading in the United States and Europe has been identified for the first time in China, where it apparently passed from person to person, Chinese researchers said. The disease — human granulocytic anaplasmosis (HGA) — is marked by symptoms like fever, severe headache, muscle aches, chills and shaking.

ALASKA Democrat Mark Begich claimed victory yesterday in the race for an Alaska seat in the U.S. Senate, defeating six-term Republican incumbent Ted Stevens. Stevens, convicted last month on corruption charges, trailed Begich by 2,374 votes as the vote count ended.

PIRATES Somali pirates have seized another ship, a Greek bulk carrier, despite a large international naval presence in the waters off their lawless country, a regional maritime group said on Wednesday. The East African Seafarers' Assistance Programme said the Greek vessel was taken yesterday in the Gulf of Aden, the second ship seized since the capture of a Saudi supertanker that was the largest hijack in history. REUTERS

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Pirates affecting shipping lanes
More of the world's big shipping firms are diverting fleets in an effort to avoid Somali pirates, an industry official said yesterday. REUTERS

World ignoring Somalia's humanitarian crisis: Group

The world has reacted quickly to piracy off Somalia for financial motives, but failed to tackle the worst humanitarian crisis on the planet, an international advocacy group said yesterday.

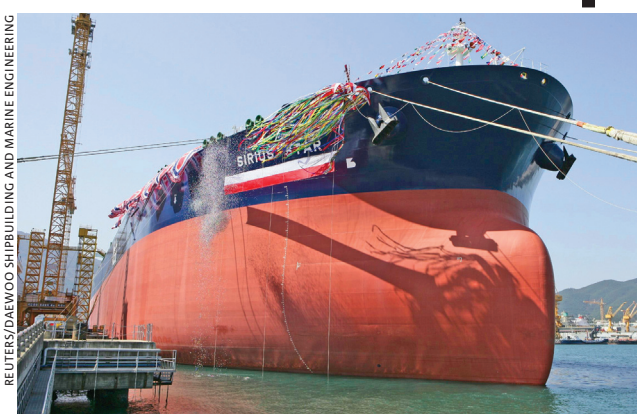
As well as decrying global hypocrisy over Somalia, Refugees International also lambasted U.S. policy towards the Horn of Africa nation, saying air-strikes targeting militants had brought reprisals against aid workers on the ground.

"Somalia is the world's worst humanitarian disaster and aid agencies are unable to respond to the immense scale of needs," the U.S.-based group said in a report that was the latest plea for the world to take heed of the Somali crisis.

More than 30 staff from non-governmental groups and UN agencies have been killed in Somalia this year.

Islamist insurgents are closing in on Mogadishu after a nearly two-year campaign that is the latest cycle in 17 years of conflict in the African nation.

REUTERS/DAEWOO SHIPBUILDING AND MARINE ENGINEERING



The Saudi-owned crude oil supertanker Sirius Star has been hijacked by Somali pirates. Refugees International says world governments are displaying a "lack of principled engagement" by dealing with piracy while ignoring Somalia's humanitarian crisis.

The violence has killed 10,000 civilians since early 2007, created more than 1 million internal refugees, and left more than 3 million Somalis in need of food aid.

Refugees International said 400,000 Somalis have fled abroad, including 10,000 to Kenya in September alone.

"While the responsibility for this crisis lies first and foremost with the Somali leadership, the international community, principally the U.S. government and members of the U.N. Security Council, has also failed in its duty to protect the Somali people," the group said.

It said the contrast between the response to the humanitarian needs and the reaction to a wave of piracy off Somalia — which has brought NATO, European Union and U.S. patrols — demonstrated the "lack of principled engagement." REUTERS

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Egyptian author wins Civil Courage Prize

Egyptian author and playwright Ali Salem, an outspoken critic of radical Islam and a proponent of peace with Israel, won the $50,000 Civil Courage Prize yesterday. He said the prize, awarded by the U.S.-based Train Foundation, recognized both his major stances. REUTERS

Stem cell therapy restores hearing, sight in animals

SCIENCE Stem cells can be used to restore lost hearing and vision in animals, researchers said yesterday in what they believe is a first step toward helping people.

One team repaired hearing in guinea pigs using human bone marrow stem cells, while another grew functioning eyes in tadpoles using frog cells.

While there are no immediate uses for humans, they said their findings help describe some of the most basic processes underlying the development of the senses.

"These discoveries illustrate stem cell research's continuing extraordinary potential," said Anand Swaroop of the National Eye Institute, one of the National Institutes of Health. REUTERS

Hungary **Underground galleries**

LASZLO BALOGH/REUTERS

Speleologists explore Malom lake inside Janos Molnar cave, one of the world's biggest thermal water caves, during a media visit yesterday to the newly-discovered galleries of the cavern under the streets of Budapest, Hungary.

UN concerned about situation in Gaza: Ki-moon

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told Israel's prime minister yesterday he was deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in Gaza and urged Israel to allow U.N. aid workers into the territory.

"The secretary-general today telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to express his deep concern over the consequences of the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza," the UN press office said in a statement.

"He strongly urged the prime minister to facilitate the freer movement of urgently needed humanitarian supplies and of concerned United Nations personnel into Gaza," it said.

Olmert denounced the continuing rocket fire into Israel from Gaza, but "agreed to look seriously into the urgent matter" raised by Ban, the statement said.

Israel allowed 33 truckloads of supplies into Gaza for the first time in two weeks Monday, and Olmert told Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas that he would not permit a humanitarian crisis to develop there.

Before that Israel had not allowed UNRWA, a United Nations agency that aids some 750,000 refugees in Gaza, to bring in supplies since Nov. 4 during cross-border fighting in which more than a dozen Palestinian fighters were killed.

Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak said he ordered the crossings to remain closed to "following continued rocket fire towards Israel."

GALI TIBBON/REUTERS

Ehud Olmert, Israeli PM

News in brief

SCIENCE A Colombian woman has received the world's first tailor-made trachea transplant, grown by seeding a donor organ with her own stem cells to prevent her body rejecting it, an international research team reported yesterday. The success of the operation, performed in June using tissue generated from the woman's own bone marrow, raises the prospect that transplanting other organs may be possible without drugs to dampen the immune system, they said.

POLITICS U.S. Republican Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska, convicted last month on corruption charges, appeared to have lost his re-election bid, trailing his Democratic challenger yesterday by more votes than Democrats said remained to be counted. Democrats had not declared victory by last evening, but the state's election website showed Stevens was losing by 3,724 votes as counting ended for the day. REUTERS

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Laws for senior drivers insufficient

In Step

Christine Williams

Politics and social issues

As Ontario prepares to implement tougher legislation on new drivers, one father in particular has been at the foreground of the campaign to convince the Ontario government to implement zero tolerance rules for drinking and speeding.

Tim Mulcahy began his fight in July after the death of his 20-year-old son Tyler, who crashed through a guardrail following an afternoon of drinking. Two other passengers were also killed, leaving Tyler's girlfriend the lone survivor. Mr. Mulcahy later learned that his son had a history of speeding tickets. He now argues that Tyler could have been alive today if his licence had been revoked.

Several Canadian provinces have been clamping down on teen drinking and driving. Manitoba and Nova Scotia have zero-tolerance policies, and Ontario's laws are said to be the strictest in the country.

While age is not necessarily a sentence to throw away the car keys, inevitable changes do occur with hearing, vision, depth perception, flexibility and reaction time.

While many would applaud a decision to impose tougher rules — given the numerous tragic outcomes when you blend youthful zeal, alcohol and vehicle speed — there is another growing deadly phenomenon that we need to confront: Cognitively declining seniors who keep on driving, even when they have become a danger on the road.

This hazard is too often ignored because of obvious sensitivities pertaining to independence and autonomy. To the credit of many seniors, they self-regulate their driving habits like avoiding rush-hour traffic, inclement weather conditions and driving at night.

These seniors recognize that while age is not necessarily a sentence to throw away the car keys, inevitable changes do occur with hearing, vision, depth perception, flexibility and reaction time.

But the toughest challenge is when mental functioning is too declined for the senior to even recognize a problem exists. Then it is up to family members and doctors to collaborate, a difficult task given relationships can be ruined in the process.

Overall, there is insufficient provincial legislation aimed at protecting vulnerable seniors and other drivers they share the road with. Mr. Mulcahy lobbied for government regulations before more tragedies could happen to families whose hands are tied. We also need to explore regulations for seniors.

While it has long been a celebrated tradition to point out the dangers of youth recklessness, seniors are setting a new benchmark when it comes to our roads.

In Ontario, the 80-plus age group is the fastest growing, while Canada-wide 70 per cent of driver's licence holders are 55 and older. That percentage is rapidly accelerating. The Canada Safety Council now warns that senior drivers have more collisions than any other age group — a time sensitive issue we need to address now.

Christine Williams is the producer and host of the live current affairs daily talk show On the Line at CTS TV in Burlington, Ont.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Word on the street: Are you cutting back this holiday season?

Stefan Gui
age 31, Calgary

A: I will probably spend the same on shopping this year. I'm not too worried about the economy.

Melissa Mitzner
age 25, Calgary

A: I will probably spend less actually, because of the money situation.

Etienne Dupont
age 20, Ottawa

A: I've spoken to people who spend thousands of dollars at Christmastime, but my family is not the kind to do that. I might even spend less than I would ordinarily.

Shannon Conway
age 18, Toronto

A: Yes, because I don't have a job anymore and I can't afford my lifestyle of constantly spending.

Alison Reid
age 46, Halifax

A: No, I'm pretty minimal with my shopping anyway.

Ash Sani
age 27, Vancouver

A: No, not at all. It has not been that bad for the small business I work for — actually, it's been better financially for me this year.

metro life panel

Metro Life Panel

Results from the Canadian Metro Life Panel (374 respondents):
Yes: 62.9%
No: 37.1 %

Will you spend more, less or about the same this holiday on food and entertainment?
More: 9.3 %
Less: 37.4 %
About the same: 53.3 %

WIll you spend more, less or about the same this holiday on gifts?
More: 4.4 %
Less 49.2 %
About the Same: 46.4 %

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Boeing shares fall to 5-year low on earnings worries

Boeing Co. shares tumbled 6.5 per cent to a nearly five-year low yesterday as analysts expressed concerns about the plane maker and defence contractor meeting profit estimates over the next two years. **REUTERS**

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Green bailout acceptable: CAW

Governments are within their right to set conditions on vehicle fuel efficiency as part of any multibillion-dollar support deal with the auto industry, says the head of the Canadian Auto Workers union.

CAW president Ken Lewenza said such a "strategic investment" must be tied to Canada's long-term economic security. Increasingly, labour unions and trade associations have been tying that future to green-collar job creation.

"Do I think the government could put on restrictions? Yes. Any strategic investment decisions from government should have connections to jobs and connections to what consumers are looking for, and if that's a green strategy, then that's appropriate," he said.

Both federal and Ontario government officials are heading to Washington this week as U.S. legislators debate whether to grant another $25 billion US in loan guarantees to Detroit's big three — General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler LLC. Federal Industry Minister Tony Clement has hinted Canada could play a role in the bailout.

The latest request for help follows $25 billion in loan guarantees that were granted in September on the condition that the money would be used to make more fuel-efficient vehicles. The auto giants are now asking for more money to pay bills and stave off bankruptcy.

But some industry critics say any further loan guarantees should be tied even closer to green-vehicle manufacturing, and that government needs to accelerate a transition away from fossil fuels.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Chance for Obama to make his mark

- The precarious situation Detroit finds itself in offers an opportunity, critics say, for U.S. president-elect Barack Obama to fulfill a campaign promise of putting one million U.S.-built plug-in hybrids on the road by 2015.

Chrysler Canada to cut jobs, offices

AUTO Chrysler Financial Canada said yesterday it is closing offices across the country to cut costs, a move that will affect about 145 of its employees, or nearly half its workforce.

Facing a plunge in North American vehicle sales, the company said it will close its Calgary office immediately, and will shutter its Montreal office and its current headquarters in Windsor, Ont., by May 1.

REUTERS

Markets, credit troubling mining

INDUSTRY Weakness in commodity markets as well as tight credit are causing huge cutbacks in capital spending and exploration in the Canadian mining industry, a senior mining official said yesterday.

"It has a huge impact on the mining industry because all the capital gets readjusted," Jim Gowans, chairman of the Mining Association of Canada, told Reuters in an interview. "Investment gets either stopped or significantly reduced, so that has massive long-term repercussions." **REUTERS**

In brief

SCANDAL A natural gas trader at the centre of Bank of Montreal's commodity trading scandal has pleaded guilty to mismarking his trading book to pad his bonus, Manhattan's district attorney said yesterday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Economy Iceland awaits IMF loan

CORNELIUS POPPE/REUTERS

Iceland's ambassador to Norway, Sigridur Dona Kristmundsdottir (left), and EU's ambassador to Iceland, Percy Westerlund, meet foreign media in Oslo yesterday. Iceland expects the International Monetary Fund to deliver on a proposed $2-billion US loan for the country in "days, not weeks," the country's Prime Minister Geir Haarde said. Iceland has been hit hard by the financial crisis.

Credit card options grow for banks

CARDS Canada's competition watchdog has freed Canadian banks to offer both MasterCard and Visa credit cards, lifting decades-old restrictions that made the banks choose one brand or the other.

Canada's Competition Bureau has told financial institutions that it is no longer concerned about possible conflicts if they issue both cards as MasterCard and Visa are no longer owned by member banks.

Even so, it may take some time before these issuers make changes to their card lineups.

"This is a fundamental change to the business model in Canada."
Kevin Stanton

"This isn't just a flick of the switch for anybody," Kevin Stanton, president of MasterCard Canada, said in an interview.

"The banks have to work out what this means at a strategic level. They've been operating in a non-dual environment for 35 years now, so this is a fundamental change to the business model in Canada."

The top three card issuers in Canada are Visa issuers CIBC and Royal Bank and MasterCard issuer Bank of Montreal .

MasterCard became a commercial organization several years ago, and went public in 2006. Visa became a public company earlier this year.

REUTERS

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Mexican tycoon Salinas sets eyes on Circuit City
Mexican retail tycoon Ricardo Salinas Pliego owns 28 per cent of Circuit City and could buy more of the troubled U.S. electronics chain, a Salinas spokesman said yesterday. REUTERS

Auto execs plead for bailout

U.S. auto executives warned Congress yesterday that their industry was teetering on the brink of disaster as they pleaded for a $25-billion aid package despite political opposition to another multibillion-dollar government bailout.

The hearings come as government and business officials around the globe decide if, and how, they should commit billions of taxpayer dollars to bolster struggling automakers.

Rick Wagoner, the head of General Motors Corp., bluntly told the Senate Banking Committee why the executives were there.

"This is about much more than just Detroit," Wagoner said in his testimony. "It's about saving the U.S. economy from a catastrophic collapse."

Wagoner; Robert Nardelli, head of Chrysler LLC; Alan Mulally, CEO of Ford Motor Co.; and Ron Gettelfinger, head of the United Auto Workers union, all testified yesterday.

The reception from legislators was less cordial than what the well-paid executives are used to.

Senator Richard Shelby, an Alabama Republican and member of the committee, has called the automakers "failed models" and said they should file for bankruptcy.

Criticizing the bailout, Kentucky Republican Senator Jim Bunning said, "The proposal coming before the Senate tomorrow is not a serious one." REUTERS

Clement calls for CAW co-operation

•The Canadian Auto Workers union needs to co-operate in any proposed government aid package for the struggling auto sector, Industry Minister Tony Clement said yesterday. "If we're in a situation where the Canadian government is coming to the table ... then I think it's in that spirit of co-operation that we would like the CAW at the table too," he said.

Spain **Workers protest Nissan job cuts**

ALBERT GEA/REUTERS

Nissan workers protest against job cuts in Barcelona, Spain, yesterday. Japanese car maker Nissan said they will cut thousands of jobs at its factory in Barcelona due to weak demand. The banner reads, "No to 1,680 job cuts at Nissan. Yes to a business plan."

CTV to shed jobs amid financial woes

MEDIA Citing a big drop in advertising revenue and the financial woes of some of its biggest customers, Canada's largest television network CTV said it plans to cut jobs as part of a broader cost-cutting initiative.

In an internal memo sent to all CTV staff yesterday, Ivan Fecan, president and chief executive officer of parent company CTVglobemedia said: "The worldwide financial situation is causing sharp decreases in advertising spending and even the potential bankruptcy of some of our single biggest customers.

"We have concluded that it is no longer possible to maintain the current 'status quo' of our company's operations," Fecan said in the memo.

In addition to a freeze on hiring across the network and on travel and entertainment spending, Fecan said there will be "some layoffs," though details were not included in the memo. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hall of fame to welcome RIM duo

RECOGNITION The duo behind one of Canada's most successful innovations since the zipper is to be inducted into the Order of the Business Hall of Fame.

President and chief executive officer Mike Lazaridis and co-chief executive officer Jim Balsillie of Research In Motion (the company behind the BlackBerry phone and e-mail device) are to be inducted along with Jack Lynn Cockwell, group chairman of Toronto's Brookfield Asset Management Inc.; Philippe and Nan-b de Gaspé Beaubien, the husband and wife duo behind Montreal's Telemedia Inc.; and Joseph Rotman, chairman of Roy-L Capital Corporation and of the Canada Council for the Arts.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In brief

DIAMONDS Top diamond producer De Beers expects to cut back output at its two new Canadian mines by 10 to 20 per cent because of a recent drop in demand, De Beers Canada chief executive Jim Gowans said yesterday.

NORTEL Even as losses and layoffs mount at Nortel Networks Corp. and analysts raise questions about the telecom equipment maker's future, its chief executive continues to believe the company can win market share and succeed. In an internal memo sent to employees yesterday, Mike Zafirovski urges employees to "have faith that we will succeed in the end."

HOUSING Pervasive recession fears and financial market upheaval hammered U.S. homebuilder sentiment to a record low in November, the National Association of Home Builders said yesterday, dealing a significant blow to an already flailing housing market.

REUTERS

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Holyfield following in steps of George Foreman

Boxer Evander Holyfield is returning to the ring at age 46 because he wants to become undisputed heavyweight champion again. Holyfield will fight seven-foot WBA champion Nikolai Valuev next month, aiming to become the oldest man to claim a world heavyweight title and the first to win it five times. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Pedroia beats out Morneau for MVP

Boston's Dustin Pedroia won the American League MVP award yesterday, becoming the first second baseman to earn the honour in almost 50 years. Pedroia led the AL in hits, runs and doubles in helping the Red Sox win the AL wild-card berth. He batted .326 with 17 home runs and 83 RBIs and also stole 20 bases. B.C.'s Justin Morneau finished a distant second in the voting.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Cubs ink Dempster to $52M deal

MLB The Chicago Cubs have re-signed Canadian righthander Ryan Dempster to a four-year contract extension.

Dempster

Although financial terms were not revealed, the contract is believed to be worth $52 million and it will keep him in a Cubs uniform through 2012. "Was there more money on the open market? I'm sure there probably was," said Dempster. "But truthfully I don't even care to know because I'm happy with what I have and it's more money than I could ever dream of getting."

Report: Yanks eye offer for Burnett

MLB The New York Post is reporting that the Yankees are close to offering free agent pitcher A.J. Burnett an $80 million contract over five years. Burnett went 18-10 with a 4.07 ERA for the Jays in 2008 before opting out of his deal. Toronto is not expected to offer Burnett more than a four-year package. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Third period barrage buries Avs

NHL RESULT

Avalanche 1 Flames 4

VS

LAURENCE HEINEN
for Metro Calgary

THE SKINNY: The Flames poured on the pressure throughout the game and skated to a hard-fought victory over the Avs to get back on the winning track after a woeful 6-1 loss in San Jose to the Sharks last Thursday.

ROBIN KUSINSKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Jarome Iginla gets pressed to the boards by Colorado's Jordan Leopold during the first period last night.

THE BIG SHOT: Defenceman Adrian Aucoin intercepted a clearing attempt by Colorado's Milan Hejduk and blasted a slap shot into the top corner over the outstretched glove of goalie Peter Budaj for the game winner at 12:28 of the final frame.

THE QUOTE: **"We didn't get too many (shooting) lanes, but that one for some reason – just because of the broken play – had quite a lane,"** Aucoin said. **"I put it exactly where I wanted to, so I'm happy with that."**

YEOMAN'S EFFORT: Budaj kept the Avs in the game as he stopped 47 pucks fired his way. His best save came mid way through the third when he somehow managed to get his left pad out to stop a close-in shot off the stick of Todd Bertuzzi.

THE GRINDERS: Calgary's fourth line of Wayne Primeau, Brandon Prust and Eric Nystrom forechecked well in the game and even pinned the Avs into their own zone in the third period while pressuring to notch the winning goal.

THE STREAK BUSTERS: Earlier this season, Calgary blanked Colorado 3-0 to end a five-game winning streak by the Avs. Last night's win by the Flames, halted Colorado's three-game winning streak.

THE REMATCH: The same two teams face off against each other on Thursday night in Denver (7 p.m., Sportsnet, Fan 960).

Stamps' Jones has a chip on his shoulder for Als

YorkReport

Marty York
marty.york@metronews.ca

Determined to win Sunday's Grey Cup game, naturally, are all the dudes who'll be participating in it. But I'm inclined to suggest there's a certain member of the Calgary Stampeder who is even hungrier and more obsessed about emerging victorious.

This would be Chris Jones, the Stamps' defensive co-ordinator.

Jones, you see, was irate that the Montreal Alouettes refused to hire him as their head coach before this season. He was livid that they rejected his application and instead selected Marc Trestman, an NFL coaching castoff who had virtually no CFL experience.

Jones had spent seven seasons as a Montreal assistant coach — five as the Als' defensive co-ordinator — and, understandably, he felt he deserved a shot.

Not that he ever went public with his fury. The University of Tennessee graduate is sharp enough to know how the political game is played in the CFL, and he realizes public criticisms usually get aspiring head coaches nowhere in the little league.

So he bit his lip, and likely will continue to do so in Montreal this week while the Stamps and Als prepare to meet for CFL supremacy.

Jones certainly has let his friends know his feelings, however, and several tell us his anti-Montreal sentiments haven't exactly dissipated.

"Chris wants revenge Sunday, no question about that," a source close to Jones told me.

"You won't be off-base if you said he's still bitter and wants to shove it down (the Als') damn throats."

Quietly under Jones, the Stamps' defence progressed from one of the CFL's worst units last season to the very best. No CFL team yielded fewer points and fewer touchdowns this season than Calgary.

"Chris is a great football coach and he deserves more credit than he seems to get," said B.C. head coach Wally Buono, whose Lions were held to no TDs (six field goals) by the Stamps' defence in last Sunday's Western final. "You could score a lot on Calgary in the past, but not this year."

Jones' first-hand knowledge of the Als' offence gives the Stamps a notable edge. As he said in July, before Calgary upset Montreal in the Als' only meaningful loss at home this season, "I know the things (Montreal quarterback) Anthony Calvillo doesn't feel comfortable seeing and we'll certainly try to exploit some of those if we can."

The Als lost that game 23-19, and I'm sensing a similar outcome this Sunday. I'll elaborate here later this week.

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SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
CALGARY 4 Colorado 1
Edmonton 7 Columbus 2
Carolina 2 Montreal 1
Chicago 3 Phoenix 2 (SO)
Florida 4 Tampa Bay 3 (SO)
Minnesota 2 Pittsburgh 1 (SO)

TONIGHT'S GAMES
Buffalo at Boston
Vancouver at N.Y. Rangers
Washington at Anaheim

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Orlando 103 Toronto 90
Boston 110 New York 101
Cleveland 106 New Jersey 82
Dallas 100 Charlotte 83
Denver 114 Milwaukee 105
Indiana 113 Atlanta 96
Memphis 109 Sacramento 94
Miami 94 Washington 87
Chicago at L.A. Lakers
Portland at Golden State

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Scottish celebrations
With the year-long celebration dubbed Homecoming Scotland 2009 approaching, there are more festivities than usual planned for St. Andrew's Day, Scotland's national day, which is Nov. 30. Visit *scotland.org/standrews* for more information. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Text 'check-in'

A new remote service from British Airways will let passengers check in over the phone. Whether soaking up the last rays of sun on a tropical beach, in the back of a taxi or still at the hotel, travellers will be able to log on to *ba2go.com*, then enter a booking reference and surname and sign up for a favourite seat. METRO WORLD NEWS

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

History and mystery in Harran

TheTravelJunkie
Julia Dimon

juliadimon.com

JULIA DIMON PHOTOS/FOR METRO CANADA

The grand mosque of Harran is the oldest mosque built in Southeastern Anatolia.

Eyelashes caked with dust, I make my way through the storm like a lost desert dweller separated from her own archeological dig.

In Harran, a tiny town 50 kilometres away from Urfa in Southeastern Turkey, sand storms are as common as kebabs. Blowing in from neighbouring Syria, this thin blanket of dust fills the sky with a sepia fog making visibility (and photography) difficult. Yet, it adds to the mystery of Harran, a place made famous by its historic and religious significance.

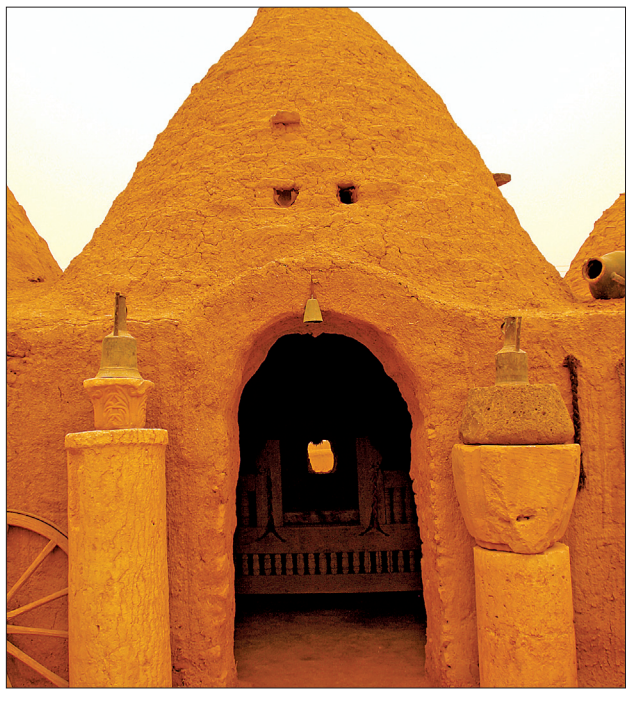
Existing as early as 2000 BC, Harran is said to be "one of the oldest continuously inhabited spots on earth." According to the Old Testament, Abraham lived here for a time and his father died here. They call Harran one of the birthplaces of the three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Today, a visit to Harran means touring the relics of Islamic antiquity. The ruins of the Grand Mosque, a castle and the traditional beehive houses, can all be seen here.

According to a rusty sign at the site, the grand mosque of Harran is the oldest mosque built in Anatolia and is a good example of Islamic architecture. Also known as Paradise Mosque, this monument was built between 744-750 AD and is believed to be the site of the first Islamic university.

While it must have been highly impressive back then, time and war haven't been kind to this former mosque/learning institution. Walking around the ruins, straining to see through the snarling sand storm, I have to wonder. Thousands of years from now, will our own cities be left to crumble, buried under the dust of time for future tourists to find?

From the ruins of the Grand Mosque, I walk a few minutes to find Harran's famous beehives houses, traditionally constructed in conical, ant hill-esque shapes.



Beehive houses, Harran's famous tourist attraction, are traditional homes dating back some 200 years.

Dating back some 200 years, the houses were built with bricks gathered from the ruins of historical Harran. Domes are typically five meters in height with 30-40 rows of brick. They accommodate the climate, providing habitants with "cool" in the summer and warmth in the winter.

This tourist attraction draws busloads of thirsty visitors looking to sip sugary tea, seek refuge from the oppressive heat and see these unusual clay homes.

Slurping on strong Turkish coffee, I catch up with a rowdy tour group of 50-plus Israelis, on a ten-day tour of Eastern Turkey. Their group has come to this holy land to learn about their biblical beginnings.

Ruti Millar, a tour guide that comes to this region five times a year, tells me "this area is special and exciting because it's the genesis of our history."

While Israelis (or people with Israeli stamps in their passports) aren't permitted to travel to Syria, Iraq or Iran, Turkey is quite welcoming. "The Turkish people are wonderful and very warm," she continues. "We've come here to meet them, see the sights and learn about different cultures."

This is what drew me to the region of Southeastern Anatolia. It was a chance to see another side of Turkey, one that goes beyond the tourist traps of cosmopolitan Istanbul and the country's Mediterranean seaside resorts. A visit here delves into the ancient histories of the Middle East … under the veil of a good Syrian sandstorm.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN; juliadimon.com.

julia's tips

- Anatolia Travels offers tours to Harran and other parts of Eastern Turkey. Visit anatoliatravels.com for more information.

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EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

The cutest of them all

Tiguan one good-looking CUV with features galore

Never one to be afraid of being late to the party, Volkswagen has got wise to the current market trends and introduced its own small crossover SUV. The Tiguan is the result.

Based on the same platform that underpins the Rabbit/GTI/Jetta triplets, the Tiguan is a compact five-seat station wagon on stilts that's tilted more towards the higher end of that product bracket.

Aimed squarely at the Toyota RAV4, Honda CR-V and Nissan Rogue, the Tiguan is arguably the best looking of the bunch, thanks to a combination of mini-Touareg and GTI styling cues. The Tig' is actually quite compact, looking smaller than a CR-V. Blacked out B and C pillars help sporty theme, while all models come with a small roof spoiler and front fog lights.

Inside, the styling takes a turn away from previous efforts by using circular vents, knobs and other controls rather than the squared-off look in the Passat, Jetta and Touareg. Material use is class leading as well, with good ergonomics and useful cubbies.

The Tiguan is a compact five-seat station wagon on stilts that's tilted more towards the higher end of that product bracket.

Volkswagen claims the Tiguan provides "best-in-class comfort," and that's not just a tagline. The seats are multi-adjustable and supportive, while features like a panoramic sunroof and backup camera are luxurious options.

Inside, the styling takes a turn away from previous efforts by using circular vents, knobs and other controls.

While the standard eight-speaker AM/FM/CD/MP3 player is more than acceptable, the all-new optional 300-watt/eight-speaker system from DynAudio is fantastic. It also features a touch-screen and NAV system, along with Sirius satellite radio.

Look under the hood, and you'll spot Volkswagen's corporate 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder, albeit a "second-generation" version whose tweaks will roll out through the rest of the lineup in due course.

Output remains 200 hp from 5,100 to 6,000 rpm, and 206 lb-ft of torque from 1,700 to 5,000 rpm, which puts Tiguan as the class leader for power. Fuel economy is decent as well: 11.6 L/100 km city and 8.3 L/100 km highway. That's within about a half-litre for the CR-V, although significantly behind the class-leading Rogue's 9.5/7.7.

Volkswagen claims the Tiguan provides "best-in-class comfort," and that's not just a tagline.

Transmissions are six-speeds across the board; a manual is standard on the base front-wheel drive model, while the rest get Volkswagen's smooth manu-matic.

As you'd expect from a cute-ute as this, Haldex-based 4Motion all-wheel drive is available as an option on lower models and standard on higher trims.

While not as hard riding or sporty as a CR-V, the Volkswagen does hold its own quite well. The steering is accurate, although lacking in feel, and reactions under braking are quite predictable. The 'ute doesn't roll too much either, flowing along the twisting roads comfortably.

Safety ranks above average for the class, with ABS, stability control and tire-pressure monitoring on every model. Six airbags (front, front-side and full-length curtain) are standard as well, although Volkswagen makes you pay separately for rear-seat side airbags.

Canadians get three versions of the Tiguan, following the conventions set with the rest of the Volkswagen lineup: Trendline, Comfortline and Highline.

Trendline is the only version available with a manual transmission and/or front-wheel drive, and starts at $27,575.

Next up is the Comfortline, which at $33,975 Volkswagen expects to be its most popular model.

The loaded $38,375 Highline features 18-inch wheels, 12-way power seats with memory features, auto-dimming interior mirror, automatic bi-xenon headlights, more chrome, dual-zone climate control, leather seats, rain sensor and Sirius.

CARGUIDE STAFF

2009 VW Tiguan

Type: SUV
Price: $27,575
Engine: L4, DOHC, 2.0L, Turbo, Direct-injection
HP: 200

Highlights

- Seats five
- Good ergonomics
- Many options including manual transmission

Model makeover

New features for Phaeton

Volkswagen has started shipping the latest version of the Phaeton to European markets.

• Following its debut at the Paris Motor Show, Volkswagen has announced a number of revisions to the Phaeton luxury sedan with new features being added to the model range.

Inside, new touchscreen satellite navigation and climate control systems feature as standard as part of a redesigned centre console, alongside a refreshed instrument cluster and multi-function display.

Side Scan blind-spot monitor is now available as an option on the Phaeton for the first time, building on the already extensive list of safety equipment fitted to the vehicle. This technology, currently available on the Touareg, monitors the area next to the vehicle and acts as a lane changing aid with an audible alert and a small warning lamp in the wing mirrors to warn of the danger of collision.

Other options new to the Phaeton are a rear-view camera and the powerful 1,000-watt Dynaudio soundpack, which includes 12 speakers.

Subtle design tweaks have also been made to the exterior, including a revised front grille featuring a three-dimensional Volkswagen roundel.

A range of new metallic paint finishes and three new alloy wheels, in 17-, 18- and 19-inch designs, have also been added.

The Phaeton is available with a 3.0-litre V6 TDI 240 hp with DPF (diesel particulate filter) or 6.0-litre W12 450 hp gasoline engine.

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RAV4 gets mid-life makeover

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

One of the biggest automotive stories in Canada is unfolding in Woodstock, Ont.

That's the site of the gigantic, new Toyota assembly plant that is now starting to roll out its first product, the 2009 RAV4 compact SUV.

The current generation RAV4 and the Woodstock plant site were both launched in 2006. In fact, the Canadian debut of the RAV4 took place where the facility now stands.

With RAV4 North American production shifting to Ontario, a few changes have been made in what amounts to a mid-life refreshing that results in two engine/transmission and three trim level (Base, Sport, Limited) choices for six basic combinations. If you add in optional packages, there are 14 ways to order a RAV4 from Woodstock.

The biggest change is an all-new 2.5-litre inline four-cylinder engine that produces 179 hp (up 13 hp) and 172 lb/ft (up 7 lb/ft) of torque over the 2.4-litre engine in the 2008 RAV4. And better, the new engine is almost five per cent more fuel efficient at 9.7/7.2/8.6L/100 km city/highway/combined compared to 10.1/7.7/9.0L/100 km for the 2.4-litre. Standard transmission is an electronic four-speed automatic.

The 2009 Toyota RAV4 features a number of mid-cycle changes and is now being produced at Toyota's huge new assembly facility in Woodstock, Ont.

The other engine is a 3.5-litre, DOHC V6 with 269 hp and 246 lb/ft of torque delivering 11.1/7.7/9.6L/100 km city/highway/combined. The transmission here is an electronic five-speed automatic.

All RAV4s come with what Toyota calls its Active Torque Control four-wheel-drive that is actually more of a "slip and grip" all-wheel-drive system that has a coupling placed just in front of the rear differential. Based on where the sensors find traction is the best, the coupling is electromagnetically activated if torque to the rear as is needed. In most cases, the RAV4 will be running in a front-drive mode and that, in turn, helps conserve fuel consumption.

All 2009 RAV4s are equipped with Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) incorporating traction control. This is integrated with electric power steering for surprising precise steering. With all systems working, there was no sense of getting out of shape.

In adverse conditions like heavy snow or ice, a switch can turn off the VSC.

Braking is by four discs with ABS, electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBD) and Brake Assist.

Now on sale across Canada, the base 2.5-litre RAV4 carries a starting price of about $26,500 with the Sport starting at $30,165 and Limited at $31,635. Suggested starting prices for V6-equipped models are the Base at $29,100, Sport at $31,920 and Limited at $33,890.

There are some visual external changes for 2009 that start with different grille and front bumper designs to distinguish the Base and Sport models from the Limited. Fog lamps found on the Sport and Limited are not available on the Base.

While the car industry seems to be in upheaval, Toyota is reporting sales records. And at a time when slowdown is becoming the rule of the day, Toyota continues to invest and grow in Canada.

And much of that is riding on the 2009 RAV4 that's coming out of Woodstock.

2009 Toyota RAV4

Type: Compact SUV
Price: 2.5-litre: Base, $26,500; Sport, $30,165; Limited, $31,635. 3.5-litre: Base, $29,100; Sport, $31,920; Limited $33,890
Engine: 2.5-litre, four-cylinder, 16-valve DOHC; 3.5-litre DOHC V6
HP: 179-269

Highlights

- More power
- Better fuel efficiency
- More backseat space

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Das Auto.

*MSRP of $23,310/$28,310 for new 2008 New Beetle / New Beetle Convertible base model with 5-speed manual transmission. MSRP of New Beetle as shown is $24,970 with Mali accessory wheels and front fog lights. MSRP of New Beetle Convertible as shown is $29,785 with 16" alloy wheels, semi-automatic convertible roof and front fog lights. PPSA, license, insurance, registration, any dealer charges, options, and applicable taxes extra. **Limited time lease offer on approved credit available through Volkswagen Finance, a division of VW Credit Canada Inc., applies to new and in stock 2008 New Beetle / New Beetle Convertible models, $1,335 freight and PDI included. PPSA, license, insurance, registration, any dealer charges, options, and applicable taxes extra. For new 2008 base model New Beetle / New Beetle Convertible with 5-speed manual transmission, monthly payment is $290/$346 based on 2.9% lease APR for 48 months with $0 down payment for a total lease obligation of $13,920/$16,608. First monthly payment free up to a maximum of $400 for new and in stock 2008 New Beetle / New Beetle Convertible, taxes included – no cash value applied to the lease. $0 security deposit offered on new and in stock 2008 New Beetle / New Beetle Convertible models leased through Volkswagen Finance. $0.12/km over 80,000 kilometres charged at lease end. Dealer may sell/lease for less. At participating Volkswagen dealerships only. Offer valid until November 30, 2008 and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Supplies limited. See dealer or visit vw.ca for details. Certain conditions apply. "New Beetle" is a trademark of Volkswagen AG. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo and "New Beetle" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. © 2008 Volkswagen Canada.

Mormon Musical
South Park creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone are taking a comedy musical about the Mormon faith to Broadway. The pair have teamed up with Jeff Marx, the brain behind the successful stage comedy Avenue Q, to develop a script for Mormon Musical. IMDB.COM

Entertainment

Connery tees off
Sean Connery is delighted he will help open Donald Trump's $1.5-billion US golf course resort in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, because it will boost the country's image around the world. IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Jackson could be too ill to travel

LEGAL Singer Michael Jackson may be too sick to travel to London to give evidence in a breach of contract court case against him brought by a son of the king of Bahrain, his lawyer said yesterday.

Robert Englehart presented a medical report, which was not read out in open court. "On a best-case prognosis, it would be unwise for him to travel given what he's got now," he told the High Court.

Magazine eyes video game role

GAMING National Geographic is getting into the video game business.

Through its for-profit unit National Geographic Ventures, the non-profit National Geographic Society is set to announce that it has created National Geographic Games. REUTERS

Miley Cyrus gets animated

Teen star supplies voice in new film Bolt

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

It's hard to believe that Miley Cyrus is only 15 years old. In just her short decade-and-a-half, the superstar has already had the hit TV sitcom Hannah Montana, a No. 1 album and has become so popular with teens, she's seen her face emblazoned on everything from jewelry to bedding and more.

"I was looking for hand sanitizer and someone whipped out my face on (a bottle of) hand sanitizer," said the young actress during a recent interview in Los Angeles. "That was weird."

If Cyrus' age is hard to distinguish by her extensive body of work and stunning success, it becomes slightly more evident when you meet her. After all, when discussing her new animated movie Bolt, Cyrus displays the enthusiasm of an excited teenager.

"It's kind of weird but it's fun," Cyrus said about her first foray into voiceover work. "You're making facial expressions as you say the lines so you're like, 'OK, are my facial expressions that I'm making right here going to match what really happens in the movie?'"

In the charming film, Cyrus supplies the voice of Penny, a young actress who must cope with the loss of her beloved pooch Bolt — voiced by John Travolta — after her pup/co-star accidentally gets shipped across America.

While Bolt journeys his way home to Hollywood, he picks up such travelling companions as Rhino, a high-strung rodent housed in a clear hamster ball.

"I wanted to (play him) so bad. I don't care that I'm a girl. I wanted to play the little boy hamster. He's so cute I want to squeeze him everytime I see him," said Cyrus. "I know there'll be a Rhino movie because all the kids are going to fall in love with him."

While moviegoers will have to wait until the film opens Friday to discover Rhino, Cyrus has already earned her own mass of worldwide admirers — and more impressively — the respect of her legendary co-star.

"She's an amazing young woman, very sophisticated," said Travolta about the teen sensation. Although the pair didn't voice together for the movie, they did record a duet for Bolt, a song co-written by Cyrus.

"Miley is kind of the Olivia Newton-John of today and getting to sing with her made me so popular with my kids. I dined out a lot on that one."

Miley Cyrus supplies the voice of Penny, a young actress who must cope with the loss of her pet pooch in the animated film Bolt.

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MacGyver's the man
TV hero MacGyver has beaten Buffy The Vampire Slayer and 24's Jack Bauer to the top of a new TV action heroes poll by TV Guide. IMDB.COM

Recreating the '70s with music

IntelleVision

MUSIQUE NON-STOP: You know that ABC's Life On Mars has confounded its worst expectations when Variety runs a feature about the show's soundtrack.

Music plays as big a role in the ABC Americanization as it does in the BBC original, and you should expect nothing less from a show that, after all, takes its title from a song that was apparently a major part of original creator Ashley Pharoah's inspiration for the British series.

Scott Rosenberg, executive producer of the ABC version, was eager to discover why Pharoah had set the show in 1973.

"I really thought he was going to give me this incredibly hyper-intellectual answer about how 1973 was the moment when the '60s died and the '70s began, with Watergate and Vietnam," Rosenberg told Variety, "and he said, 'Honestly, because that's when the David Bowie song came out.'"

Another recent U.S. show set in the '70s — CBS' Swingtown — also relied on a tune-heavy soundtrack, but the choices were painfully obvious Top 40 ditties that made the show feel like the Complete Idiot's Guide to the decade.

The British show made spectacular use of period songs, some of them more likely to resonate with British viewers (Slade's Gudbuy T'Jane, Status Quo's Good Thinking, any Roxy Music but Love Is The Drug) and a few pointedly obscure (Colosseum's I Can't Live Without You, copious amounts of Hawkwind and Atomic Rooster.)

Variety describes Rosenberg as a music snob "who'd rather turn viewers on to a slightly obscure track than fall back on a classic rock hit."

To that end, lesser glam bands like the Sweet and Mott The Hoople are heard in the background, and when they're playing the Rolling Stones in a bar, it's Out Of Time, not Jumping Jack Flash or (shudder) Wild Horses.

"I really thought he was going to give me this incredibly hyper-intellectual answer about how 1973 was the moment when the '60s died and the '70s began, with Watergate and Vietnam."
Life on Mars executive producer Scott Rosenberg

ABC has even put up a streaming radio station on the show's website, featuring period hits, and while writing this it's featured the Beatles doing The Long And Winding Road and Almost Cut My Hair by Crosby, Stills & Nash, underlining what anyone who survived the decade already knows — that the '70s were, at least until 1976, little more than an extended hangover from the '60s.

(More accurately, you can simply say that the real '60s began at some point in mid-1965 and didn't really end until the Sex Pistols played their first gig at a London art college in the fall of 1975.)

All of which makes me eager to give the show the chance I was loathe to grant it during its troubled production history earlier this year — on DVD, of course, provided that ABC doesn't cheap out on music rights, pull a WKRP and replace all the music with studio musicians vamping on the riff from The Boys Are Back In Town.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

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	Vu	SC		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
11/19/08	267	351	ACCESS	Help TV		Smallville "Bride" (N)		Dirty Sexy Money (N)		Private Practice (N)		Help TV
	243	317	3 CFCN	etalk	Hollywood	You Can Dance		CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		Criminal Minds (N)		News (N)
	-	-	4 BROAD	(4) Broadcast News News.		Broadcast News News.						
	-	371	5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Pushing Daisies (N)		Private Practice (N)		Sexy Money
	245	306	6 CBRT	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie (N)	CBC News: the fifth estate (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338	7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	House "House's Head"		Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		The Guard (N)		News Hour
	246	-	8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU		Stylista (N)		Chuck		I Love Money		Your City
	119	705	9 CBXFT	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Le Match des étoiles (N) (SC)		M pour musique (N) (SC)		Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)		TJ Alberta
	-	-	10 SHAW	(6) Local Programming						Local Programming		
primetime	-	372	12 KREM	News (N)	Hollywood	The Doctors (N)		Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY
	-	374	14 KSPS	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Monarchy: The Royal Family at Work (HDTV) (N) (DVS)				Independent Lens "Knee Deep" (HDTV)		
	502	390	15 CBC	CBC News: The National		When Sharks Attack		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Sharks Attack
	-	370	16 KHQ	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		Life "Badge Bunny" (N)		Law & Order
	-	373	22 KAYU	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		House "House's Head"		News (N)
	297	652	37 WPIX	Stylista (N)		CW11 News at Ten (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	According-Jim
news	500	500	29 CNN	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	508	502	31 CNN2	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Nancy Grace		Showbiz Tonight		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Nancy Grace
sports	400	400	21 TSN	NHL Hockey		SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)			Off the Record	Boxing: Barrera vs. Ventura		
	408	418	27 net	Hockey 2008 ADT Canada Russia Challenge -- QMJHL vs. Russia. From Sydney, N.S.						Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Ult. Fighter
	410	403	30 SCORE	NBA Basketball		Score Tonight		Hardcore Hockey Talk		Final Score	Final Score	Sports Rage
	411	457	44 OLN	Ed's Up	Adventures	Word Travels	Globe Guides	Pilot Guides		Don't Forget Your Passport		Ed's Up
	417	406	48 SPEED	Pinks	Pinks Outtakes	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks
family	552	543	20 YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Malcolm-Mid.	Fresh Prince	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
	557	541	39 FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
	555	545	67 TOON	6teen	Total Drama	George-Jungle	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	The Critic
cable variety	575	583	11 CMT	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Ult. Coyote Ugly Search		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba
	553	546	17 TREE	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears	Babar	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	-	-	18 CHTV	The Insider (N)	E! News	True Hollywood Story		Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		Johnny Depp: True Story		News (N)
	505	398	19 TWN	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	602	568	23 W	House	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery Bag	Maxed Out	Supersize vs. Superskinny		Got the Look
	521	560	24 TLC	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Kids by the Dozen		Jon & Kate Plus 8		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Kids by Dozen
	603	561	25 FOOD	Iron Chef America		Top Chef		Restaurant Makeover		Challenge Awards cake.		Iron Chef Am.
	615	520	26 A&E	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter
	617	522	32 SHOW	EastEnders	Saxondale	Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Durham County		Billable Hours	G-Spot	Starter Wife
	601	562	33 SLICE	Work Out		Real Housewives of NYC		Last 10	Bulging Brides	Work Out		Housewives
	-	633	34 ENC2	(6:20) *Scent of a Woman* ★★★ (1992, Drama) Al Pacino.				*Yanks* ★★★ (1979, Romance) Richard Gere, Lisa Eichhorn.				
	520	505	35 DISC	Monster Moves (N)		Mayday "Fog of War"		Daily Planet		MythBusters		Cash Cab
	620	523	36 BRAVO	Wingfield	Letters: The Art of Courtship		The Achievers	Law & Order "DNR"		Without a Trace		*Just a Little*
	294	650	40 WPCH	(6) *Shrek*	Steve Harvey	Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	(9:45) *Shrek* ★★★ (2001, Comedy), Eddie Murphy			
	626	547	41 COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	House Party
	-	539	42 TCM	*Young in Heart*	(7:45) *A Star Is Born* ★★★★ (1937, Drama)				(9:45) *Small Town Girl* ★★ (1936, Comedy)			
	628	584	43 SPIKE	UFC Unleashed (N)		The Ultimate Fighter (N)		The Ultimate Fighter (HDTV)		CSI: NY (HDTV)		CSI: NY
	522	516	45 HIST	The Real Treasure Island		NCIS "The Meat Puzzle"		Cities of the Underworld		The Real Treasure Island		NCIS
	627	528	46 SPACE	Battlestar Galactica		Ghost Hunters International (N)		Stargate SG-1		Lost "Dave"		Deep Space 9
	-	-	47 AMC	(6) *The Enforcer* (1976)		*Sudden Impact* ★★ (1983, Crime Drama) Clint Eastwood.				*Striking Distance* ★★ (1993, Suspense)		
	619	525	49 TROP	Reality	Ad Persuasion	Beverly Hills, 90210		Reality	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	600	564	50 HGTV	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Million Dollar Listing		Holmes on Homes		Mansions	The Stagers	Property Virgin
	501	391	52 CTV	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	504	508	70 BNN	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Business News	Squeeze Play
	526	507	92 VIVA	The West Wing		Mediums	Psychic Detect	Mediums	Encounters	Judging Amy		Commander
	269	350	93 APTN	APTN National News: Contact		Reel Insight		Canadian Geographic		Tribal Treks	Guides	Wings-Canada
	-	-	94 MCP	(6:30) News	News	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Hola Que Tal
	571	581	100 MMM	Revival	Where You At	Fabulous Life Of... (N)		Party of Five		Fabulous Life Of...		Party of Five
	570	580	101 MM	(5) To Be Announced		Degrassi: Next	Degrassi: Next	PunchMuch		50 Cent: Money and Power		disBand
	581	566	102 MTV	Real World-Road Rules		Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live	After	Man and Wife	Super Sweet	Real World-Rd

critics' corner

Sophie
The title of this new episode is "The Lost Weekend," but let's hope it doesn't bear any resemblance to the classic film of that name. Sophie (Natalie Brown) takes her mom (Mimi Kuzyk) on a spiritual retreat, leaving little Robbie in the care of Estelle (Sara Botsford) for the first time. Do wacky baby-sitting hijinks ensue? Well, this is a sitcom. 8:30 PM on CBRT

Life
Is it the handcuffs? When a drug dealer and an elementary-school teacher are found dead in a bad part of town, it looks like a typical drug deal gone bad. But the investigation takes a turn when Crews and Reese (Damian Lewis, Sarah Shahi) discover the dead teacher was a woman who exclusively dated cops — a "badge bunny." Could the killer be one of their own? Then Crews and Jennifer (Jennifer Siebel) address their complex relationship. 10 PM on KHQ

Garner delights Affleck with gaming suite plans
Actress Jennifer Garner dealt her poker-playing husband Ben Affleck a winning hand when she surprised him with her plans to build a private gaming suite for him in their home. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

Madonna warns against marriage

PEOPLE Madonna has reportedly told pop star Britney Spears never to get married again, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer, who recently announced she is divorcing Guy Ritchie after nearly eight years of marriage, has allegedly advised mother-of-two divorcee Spears not to walk down the aisle again.

"Britney asked Madonna if she will ever marry again after her split from Guy. Madonna not only said she wouldn't but told Britney to forget about marriage. She said it just doesn't work for girls like them," a source close to Madonna told gossip website AbsoluteNow.com.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sutherland recalls stint in slammer

PEOPLE Months after Kiefer Sutherland completed his seven-week jail sentence for DUI, the 24 star still shivers at the thought of what he endured, People.com reports.

"There's no smoking," Sutherland, 41, tells Men's Vogue in its December/January issue, which hits newsstands Tuesday. "The lights never go out, 24/7. You can't cover anything. You can't even put your head under a blanket. All the cells have cameras in them."

Although Sutherland has resumed smoking, the knowledge that he could go 48 days without his Camels is a comforting thought.

"My drinking was not a daily thing, so it wasn't an issue. And, oddly enough, neither was the smoking," he tells the magazine, adding, "I was very glad to know that I could quit. And one day soon I will."

One thing that didn't work out, he says, was the roommate situation. "I was told, you know, 'You'll have your own cell.' But I didn't for the first two or three weeks; I had a cell mate," he says. "He got out, but not for long. He came back in pretty quick."

24's new season begins Sunday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Scarlett flattered by being Katy's muse

PEOPLE Some stars get fan mail. Scarlett Johansson got a platinum-certified single, People.com reports.

When told that her lips inspired Katy Perry to pen her hit I Kissed A Girl, Johansson, who recently married Ryan Reynolds, tells December's Allure, "That's flattering, but my lips are kind of taken."

In fact, until Perry's melody was pointed out to her, "I had no idea (about the song)," says Johansson, 24. "I should get a cut!"

Yet when the topic of how she met Reynolds, 32, comes up, Johansson cuts off the conversation.

"Nobody knows," she says. "It's private. It's our story."

And while she won't reveal the details of their past, Johansson does exhibit a carefree mindset toward the future.

"I always wanted to get married and have kids," she says. "I just never had any preconceived idea about what that would be like ... My life seems to be happening naturally."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kidman 'reeling' at leaving baby

FAMILY Nicole Kidman admitted she was "reeling" Tuesday at the Sydney premiere of her new epic Australia, but not from the cameras or crowds, People.com reports.

What had her so stressed? The actress and her husband, Keith Urban, had to leave four-month-old daughter Sunday Rose back home in Nashville, Tenn. — half a world away.

"I had to leave her for 24 hours," Kidman said. "I haven't done that yet and so I'm still reeling."

Still, the Oscar-winner said missing the premiere was simply not an option.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Cohen crashes set of Medium

ANTICS Production on Patricia Arquette's hit TV drama Medium came to a halt recently when comic Sacha Baron Cohen invaded the set as his fashion reporter creation Bruno, imdb.com reports.

Filming was temporarily shut down as Baron Cohen, posing as an extra, was forcibly removed from the set after interrupting a tense courtroom scene.

"No one had a clue it was Sacha playing Bruno. It's amazing he was able to infiltrate the set and pull this off," an insider for the show tells ew.com.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jolie not ready to retire yet

CAREER Angelina Jolie has backtracked on her decision to "fade away" from acting, insisting she's not ready to retire yet, imdb.com reports.

The Oscar winner recently suggested she was finished with films, and wanted to quit so she could spend more time with her six children and partner Brad Pitt.

Hinting her retirement was imminent, she said, "I don't plan to keep acting very long, I'm ready to do a few things now and fade away and get ready to be a grandma one day."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Washington still bitter?

CONTROVERSY Actor Isaiah Washington is still bitter about the way he was ousted from hit medical drama Grey's Anatomy because reports suggested he attended rehab sessions to conquer his alleged homophobia, imdb.com reports.

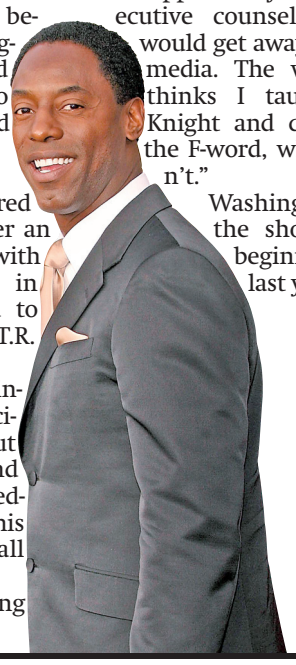
The star was fired from the show after an on-set altercation with Patrick Dempsey, in which he referred to gay castmate T.R. Knight as a f—.

But Washington insists the whole incident was blown out of proportion, and suggestions he needed counselling for his comments are all wrong.

"The rehab thing was incorrect," he says. "There's no such thing as rehabilitation. I was given an opportunity to go to executive counselling so I would get away from the media. The world still thinks I taunted T.R. Knight and called him the F-word, which I didn't."

Washington left the show at the beginning of last year.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Spears compares her life to prison

PEOPLE Britney Spears says her life is like being in prison, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer suffered a public breakdown earlier this year resulting in her father Jamie becoming co-conservator of her estate, but has recently wowed fans with her sleek new image after getting her personal life back on track. However, Spears has revealed she is not completely happy.

"There's no excitement, there's no passion. I have really good days, and then I have bad days," Spears said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Photos of Hilton may upset beau

RELATIONSHIPS Paris Hilton may be in hot water with her rocker boyfriend Benji Madden after photos of her and former beau Stavros Niarchos flirting in a club were published, imdb.com reports.

The socialite was spotted getting friendly with her shipping heir ex, whom she dated for more than a year, before they split in 2006.

But Hilton seemed to be on good terms with Niarchos as they partied together in Miami, Fla., hotspot Mokai nightclub over the weekend.

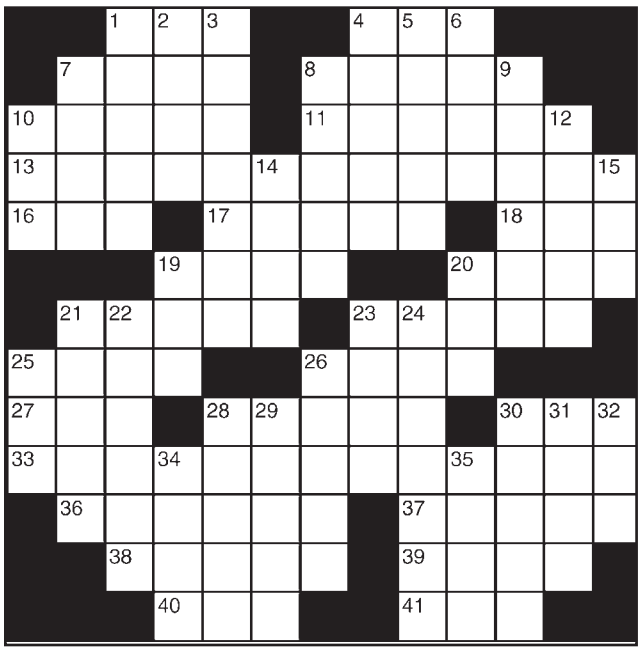
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Today Sunny -2 C / -8 C
Thursday Sunny 2 C / -7 C
Friday Sunny 4 C / -9 C

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Andrew Schultz, Weather Specialist – Breakfast Television
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta." **WEEKDAYS AT 6 AM**

Take Five



Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		4	2	6		8		7
3		2	4					5
	7							
5		8			7			
		6				2		
			9			5		3
							8	
6					1	3		2
4		1		3	9	7		

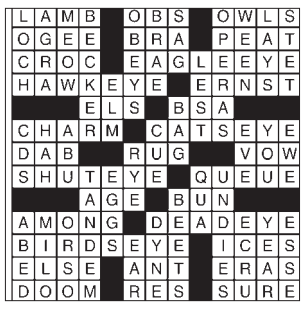
Crossword across

1 Sandwich letters
4 Massage
7 Eins, zwei, —
8 Gives a hoot
10 Existence
11 Charlie's staff
13 2008 Greg Kinnear film
16 Shark part
17 Rough woolen fabric
18 Conk out
19 Coop group
20 Ballet leap
21 Expositions
23 Attention-getting light
25 "My bad"
26 Connect
27 Dandy
28 Cheech's partner
30 Eventual aves
33 Here today, gone tomorrow type
36 Arm holder
37 Pollster's find
38 Hamstrings
39 Green land
40 "Mayday!"
41 "CSI" evidence

Crossword down

1 "Family Guy" dog
2 Photog's choice
3 More constricting
4 Gamut
5 Incited
6 Existed
7 Where heros are made?
8 Small restaurants
9 Pitcher's option
10 Closest pal, to a texter
12 Hotel accommodation
14 Possesses
15 Witness
19 That guy's
20 One of the Brady bunch
21 Puts one over on
22 Shock
23 Type selection
24 Illumi-nated
25 Vacationing
26 Singer Norah
28 Medical treatment, for short
29 Urticaria
30 Beethoven's "Fidelio," e.g.
31 Barn roof adornment
32 Moreover
34 Vast expanses
35 Ms. Brockovich

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



1	8	5	6	4	2	7	9	3
2	9	7	5	3	8	6	1	4
4	6	3	9	1	7	8	5	2
7	3	6	8	5	4	9	2	1
5	1	2	7	9	6	4	3	8
9	4	8	1	2	3	5	6	7
8	7	1	2	6	5	3	4	9
6	2	4	3	7	9	1	8	5
3	5	9	4	8	1	2	7	6

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SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Chinese Beef Stir-Fry

INGREDIENTS:
7 oz (200 g) lean beef steak
1 tsp (10 mL) cornflour
1 tsp (5 mL) five-spice powder
1 carrot, peeled
1 small leek, trimmed
6 spring onions, sliced diagonally
1/2 red pepper, seeded and cut into strips
3.5 oz (100 g) dried rice noodles
1 1/2 tbsp (20 mL) soy sauce
1 1/2 tbsp (20 mL) rice wine
1 1/2 tbsp (20 mL) vegetable oil
1 large garlic clove, finely chopped
1/3 inch (2 cm) piece fresh ginger, peeled and finely chopped
1 red chili pepper, seeded and finely chopped

METHOD:
1. Cut meat across the grain into 2-inch (5-cm) wide pieces, then cut each piece into very thin strips. Place in a small bowl with cornflour and five-spice powder. Mix until meat is coated.
2. Cut carrot and leek into 2-inch (5-cm) lengths, then cut each piece into thin matchsticks. Put in a bowl along with spring onions and red pepper.
3. Soak noodles in a bowl of lightly salted boiling water for 3 minutes. Drain and refresh in cold water, then drain again. Combine soy sauce, rice wine and 1 1/2 tbsp (20 mL) of water in a small jug or bowl.
4. Place a wok or large frying pan over high heat. When hot, add 1 tbsp (15 mL) oil and, when it has just begun smoking, toss in meat and stir-fry for 2–3 minutes until cooked through. Remove with a slotted spoon. Add remaining oil with garlic, ginger and chili pepper. Stir-fry for 30 seconds, then add vegetables and toss around for another 30 seconds.
5. Stir in soy sauce mixture and, as soon as liquid is bubbling, mix in drained noodles then meat. Serve immediately, with soy sauce to sprinkle over the top.

SERVES 2

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Be cautious but not fearful. Other people are on some weird kind of a tangent. Avoid making radical changes in your home.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A depressing problem will soon be solved. Optimism is required to improve your circumstances. Avoid telling secrets to a stranger.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A love life improvement is coming soon. Watch out for unpredictable drivers. Do not repeat an idiotic error.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A financial windfall is on the way. Rage blows over quickly when faced with silence. A man talks tough because he's compassionate.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You'll get a blessing in disguise. Difficulties arise in a damaged friendship. Carelessness in money matters provokes severe regret.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't go looking for a fight. Use humour to deflect criticism. Mediocrity disappears when maturity kicks in.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
There's shocking news about a former partner. Tend to your chores in spite of a persistent daydream. Take notes when a friend introduces fresh ideas.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Somebody's sharp tongue leaves you feeling miserable. Nervous tension is increasing again. Any act of kindness will be rewarded.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
A joyful reunion is coming soon. A puzzling turn of events surprises you. A harmless person comes to your rescue.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Plans are thwarted by a gutless person. Refuse to be miserable about minor failures. Remove a guilty secret from your conscience.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Don't take any unnecessary risks. A pleasant surprise is due at any moment. Impediments will become stepping-stones.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Help a friend over a rough patch. Be scrupulous in clearing up obstacles. Make a phone call to reinforce an important relationship.

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